

this award, Ms. Solomon was one of only 200 teachers out of seven hundred and fifty applicants to earn the Fulbright Award.

Therefore Mr. Speaker, I ask that my colleagues join me in thanking Jill Solomon for her continued devotion to excellence in education and congratulate her for receiving the Fulbright Award.

PROCLAMATION FOR EVAN
CHRISTIAN BROWNELL

HON. STEVE ISRAEL

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, October 2, 2001

Mr. ISRAEL. Mr. Speaker, it is with great pride that I rise today to recognize one of New York's outstanding young men, Evan Brownell. The Boy Scouts of his troop will honor him as they recognize his achievements by giving him the Eagle Scout honor on Sunday, October 7th.

Since the beginning of this century, the Boy Scouts of America have provided thousands of boys and young men each year with the opportunity to make friends, explore new ideas, and develop leadership skills while learning self-reliance and teamwork.

This award is presented only to those who possess the qualities that make our nation great: commitment to excellence, hard work, and genuine love of community service. Becoming an Eagle Scout is an extraordinary award with which only the finest Boy Scouts are honored. To earn the award—the highest advancement rank in Scouting—a Boy Scout must demonstrate proficiency in the rigorous areas of leadership, service, and outdoor skills.

I ask my colleagues to join me in congratulating the recipients of these awards, as their activities are indeed worthy of praise. Their leadership benefits our community and they serve as role models for their peers.

Also, we must not forget the unsung heroes, who continue to devote a large part of their lives to make all this possible. Therefore, I salute the families, scout leaders, and countless others who have given generously of their time and energy in support of scouting.

It is with great pride that I recognize the achievements of Mr. Brownell, and bring the attention of Congress to this successful young man on his day of recognition. Congratulations to Evan and his family.

TRIBUTE TO MARION BRITTON

HON. DAN MILLER

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, October 2, 2001

Mr. MILLER of Florida. Mr. Speaker, it is with great sadness that I inform my colleagues of the loss of a committed public servant Marion Britton. Marion was a passenger on the United Airlines Flight 93 that was hijacked on September 11, 2001, and crashed outside Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania.

Marion Britton's career with the Census Bureau spanned 21 years during which she worked with dedication and distinction on all major Regional Office field data collection op-

erations including the Current Survey programs, the Decennial Census, and Census Tests.

She began her career in 1980 in New York City as a Field Operations Assistant during the 1980 Census. In 1981, Ms. Britton accepted a position as a Survey Clerk in the New York Regional Office. Desiring a supervisory position, she applied for and was selected in 1983 to participate in the Census Bureau sponsored Upward Mobility Program. In 1989, upon her successful completion of this program, she advanced to a Supervisory Survey Statistician position in the New York Regional Office. In recognition of her considerable abilities to manage technically and operationally complex field data collection operations, Ms. Britton was selected to work on the 1995 Census Test in Paterson, New Jersey, managing the critical coverage measurement operations. The 1995 Census Test was an essential part of the development of the overall design of Census 2000. Ms. Britton had also participated in the initial test of the Computer-Assisted Personal Interviewing coverage measurement instrument and training and contributed input that proved beneficial on a nationwide basis.

After her considerable contributions to the successful completion of the 1995 Census Test, she was promoted in rapid succession to the position of Coordinator in the New York Regional Office in 1996, where she managed and directed several Supervisory Survey Statisticians assigned to Current Survey programs and then to Assistant Regional Census Manager, in 1997. In this position, she was instrumental in leading the crucial preparations and early operations for Census 2000. In 1998, Ms. Britton was called upon to serve as the Assistant Regional Director and given full operational and managerial responsibility for the New York Regional Office during the period of time while Census 2000 was being conducted. This was also a period of major expansion of the Current Survey programs. Shortly after this, she was selected to serve in an expanded managerial role as the Deputy Regional Director which included providing direct guidance and leadership for the Census 2000 Accuracy and Coverage Evaluation. After the completion of Census 2000, Ms. Britton returned to her position as the Assistant Regional Director for the New York Regional Office.

During her career with the Census Bureau, Ms. Britton earned several major honors and awards for her outstanding managerial and technical skills and innovative contributions. She received the Census Award of Excellence in 1988, the Bronze Medal Award, the highest honorary award granted by the Census Bureau, in 1993, and the National Partnership for Reinventing Government's "Hammer Award" in 1999 for her work on the American Community Survey.

DR. EDWARD AYENSU ON THE
BENEFITS OF MASS HIV/AIDS
TESTING AND COUNSELING FOR
VULNERABLE POPULATIONS

HON. JIM McDERMOTT

OF WASHINGTON

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, October 2, 2001

Mr. McDERMOTT. Mr. Speaker, I would like to include the following statement in the official

RECORD. I have the highest regard for Dr. Ayensu, and would like to commend this body's attention to his work. As Dr. Ayensu has rightly stated, the lack of surveillance is a significant problem in the struggle against HIV/AIDS in Africa. If we are to truly overcome this disease, we must heed people like Dr. Ayensu. I hope that my colleagues find his work as beneficial as I have.

THE BENEFITS OF MASS HIV/AIDS TESTING
AND COUNSELING FOR VULNERABLE POPU-
LATIONS

My name is Edward S. Ayensu. I am President of the Pan African Union for Science and Technology, Chairman of the Council for Scientific and Industrial Research of Ghana, Member of the Independent Inspection Panel of the World Bank and formerly a Director and Senior Scientist at the Smithsonian Institution in Washington D.C.

The fearsome prospect that HIV/AIDS can inadvertently be transmitted to any one of us—regardless of our social and economic standing—requires that decision makers the world over should make a political commitment to help halt this, the most formidable plague of all time.

As an African whose continent is experiencing untold levels of human suffering because of AIDS, I would like to offer an observation which is based on extensive field experience. Many people are dying needlessly in Africa and in other developing countries because a large percentage of people in these societies have no means of knowing their HIV-status. Knowledge of one's HIV status provides a powerful stimulus towards self-protection. For those who test HIV-negative, the realization that they are yet to be attacked by the virus results in a strong determination to remain forever free of the disease through the accepted means of self-protection. For individuals who test positive, there is generated a powerful restraint on infecting others. The net outcome is a dramatic check in HIV-spread.

Based on our current knowledge of the disease, it is evident that early diagnosis of the infection has enormous benefits for both HIV-negative and HIV-positive individuals. A key line of defense against the rapid spread of the disease accordingly is to ensure that everybody in a vulnerable community is tested as soon as possible—certainly long before the disease begins to break down the immune system and the external manifestation of its dreadful effects set in.

It is therefore absolutely essential that we employ the best and the most efficient and practical ultra rapid test kits available today to undertake a mass Shielded Testing and Counseling Program. Most of the currently available tests for HIV are laboratory based and unsuitable for mass testing in the field where the required infrastructure may not be available. However, most of the available rapid tests are not suitable partly because of an unacceptably high percentage of false positives and negatives, and also because of the need for unwieldy logistical support services such as refrigeration.

First and foremost the assay must be for blood, serum or plasma and must be stable at temperatures ranging from -20°C to +45°C. This is particularly important because the high HIV prone areas are in pan tropical regions of the world and in countries where the rural communities do not have refrigeration facilities for tests that require it. The test has to be fool proof in its performance with built-in controls to avoid misinterpretations. It must be designed not to produce false-positive and false-negative results. The sensitivity and specificity must be 100 per cent. It must be suitable for mass testing (e.g. up to 1000 people per day with a team of